an action in the Superior Court to prevent degradation to ground water quality. Recently, the SWRCB, acting in coordination with the regional boards and the counties, has been charged with the registration and regulation of underground containers of hazardous substances pursuant to AB 1362 (Sher) and AB 2013 (Cortese). Additional recent legislation, AB 3566 (Katz), requires strict controls on surface impoundments containing hazardous material.

DOBS

The DOHS administers the state's RCRA and Superfund programs, under federal law and under the preceding State Hazardous Waste Control Act of 1972. Under these programs, DOHS regulates activities that could affect ground water—such as toxic waste generation, treatment, storage, and disposal. In addition, pursuant to Title 22 of the California Administrative Code, the DOHS has the responsibility for quality control of drinking water supplies. Most recently, under State Assembly Bill 1803 (Connelly), DOHS has carried out a survey of well contamination on a statewide basis, for water systems containing more than 200 connections. However, under recent legislation, this program has been extended to systems with fewer than 200 connections. When positives are found, results are referred to the regional boards, to locate pollutant sources. Within each land use area (determined by aerial mapping previously carried out by the Corps of Engineers), a test list of pollutants was identified. Typical wells in Southern California, for example, were tested for 20 to 30 pollutants. Survey results to date are based on 2558 wells in 753 water systems. The data indicate that 315 wells in 126 systems reported positive results, of which 115 wells exceeded either a state "action level" or an EPA maximum contaminant level.

Significant Problems

There are three primary categories of toxic wastes being controlled in California: (1) pesticides, more than 90 percent of which are used on farmlands; (2) industrial solvents, heavy metals, acids, cyanide, PCB, and other wastes, which are largely generated in urban areas; and (3) gasoline, other vehicle fuels, and stored chemicals.

In L9$0, more than 120 million pounds of pesticide use (concentrated wei|nt) was reported to DFA. A recent report states that the actual use might have been 3 times that amount owing to reporting gaps. The application of pesticides to land is essential to their use. Hence, the "prevention of ground water contamination by pesticides is essentially a matter of not allowing significant quantities of pesticides to enter ground water bodies"